

curriculum I have not encountered earlier – but it is none the worse for that. In fact, if this environmental/ecological/historical/anthropological book is anything to go by, there is a need for such all-embracing chairs.

ANTHONY SMITH

The Wild Sheep in Modern North America, edited by J. B. Trefethan. Winchester Press, New York.

Coming on top of Dr V. Geist's monumental study of the behaviour and ecology of wild sheep in Canada (reviewed in *Oryx*, May 1973, p. 129), this volume must make the American wild sheep among the best documented of any species of large mammal. It consists of the 'proceedings of a workshop on the management biology of North American wild sheep' held at the University of Montana in 1974, with contributions by wildlife biologists from every state containing wild sheep from Alaska to Mexico. Nineteen reports on the status of sheep in each state are followed by a chapter by Dr Geist on the general theory of management of mountain sheep and by the reports of four groups set up to make recommendations on the management of the four major races of sheep: desert and Mexican bighorn, California bighorn, Rocky Mountain bighorn and Dall and stone sheep.

The conference reports and discussions are reproduced verbatim and provide a valuable source of information on particular populations, but the lack of any summary or concise review of the status of the group as a whole will be a source of frustration to anyone trying to extract this information in the compilation of less specialised works. However, one saving grace in this respect is the provision, in a loose envelope, of a large map showing the location of the enormous number of isolated populations into which the sheep have been fragmented, coded to indicate the race concerned and its status.

The sheer number of contributors represents a great wealth and diversity of experience in managing ungulates for a variety of purposes – experience that could well be relevant in other species. One of these purposes is of course trophy hunting which appears to generate a language of its own – in Colorado, we are told, 'the older animals are all broomed off to less than full curls'!

G. B. CORBET

Biogeography and Ecology in the Canary Islands, edited by G. Kunkel. Junk, (Monographiae Biologicae vol. 30) 160 Dutch Guilders.

The opening up of easy access to the Canary Islands in the last two decades has meant not only a vast increase in tourism, with its consequent benefits and dangers, but also increased opportunities for scientists to visit and explore the islands; as a result, more knowledge has been obtained about them in the last 25 years than in the previous 150, as Dr Kunkel points out. This is but one example of the recent greatly increased interest in the biology of islands and archipelagos, which can tell us so much about plant and animal distribution, survival and evolution.

This volume, one of the publisher's long series of scholarly monographs on biogeography and ecology of various areas of the world, is a book for specialists; it is not for the amateur naturalist seeking general information for a visit to the Canary Islands. There is, however, a great deal of useful information here, but some of it is not easily accessible even to the trained scientist. Here the blame must be placed at the publisher's door. The contributors were evidently asked to write in English, and the publishers should have provided expert assistance in rendering the manuscripts into correct English. In some places it is quite incomprehensible, which is unfortunate both for the reader who cannot understand it and for the writer whose efforts have been wasted. I am sure the editor (also not English) has done his best,